

A new-look Demolition

They are the new tag team champions in the World Wrestling Federation. Well, sort of.

As most fans who follow the WWF know, Demolition (Ax and Smash) captured the group's tag team championship from The Colossal Connection (Andre the Giant and Haku) as part of Wrestlemania VI on April 1 in Toronto.



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BY DAVE MELTZER
FOR THE NATIONAL

And Demolition still holds the title, but there have been some changes. Demolition is now a three-man team, with Ax and Smash being joined by a third member, called Crush. In addition, the duo, which had been "baby-faces" (good-guys) since turning on manager Mr. Fuji in late 1988, has been switched to a villain role.

The changes came as a result of a series of unrelated incidents. Since Wrestlemania, Demolition had been defending against The Hart Foundation (Bret "Hit Man" Hart and brother-in-law Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart) in bouts matching up baby-face teams. However, in these matches, the live crowds have gotten solidly behind the challengers.

Then Ax, whose real name is Bill Eadie, was diagnosed as having a heart problem that originally was thought to be career threatening.

The WWF then brought in 6-foot-5, 310-pound Brian Adams, who had been wrestling in Oregon, as Demolition B.A., which was changed a week later to Demolition Crush. Crush did so well that the WWF decided to keep him on permanently.

As it turned out, Ax's heart problem wasn't nearly as serious as first thought, and of late he has been an interfering ringside manager, which has turned the team into full-fledged villains. Demolition is now being billed as a three-man team, and any two of the three can defend the championship.

The change in Demolition also brings out a change in the Legion of Doom, formerly the Road Warriors.

The L.O.D., who as the Road Warriors may have been the most popular tag team in pro wrestling history, were going to be turned into villains in the WWF to challenge Demolition.

National Wrestling Alliance world champion "Nature Boy" Ric Flair had an interesting dinner engagement on Wednesday night, with President Bush. Bush was in Charlotte, N.C., for a fund-raiser for Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina and personally requested the presence of Flair, who lives in Charlotte.

Flair, who is regarded by many as the greatest all-around performer in the game's history, is said to be the president's favorite wrestler. Last year, the president invited Flair to the White House, but scheduling conflicts kept the two from meeting.

EC: Former heavyweight boxing champion Leon Spinks is doing a villain referee role in Tennessee. . . . The WWF is in serious negotiations to bring in former NWA champion Kerry Von Erich in August. . . . "Ravishing" Rick Rude, who is scheduled to face the Ultimate Warrior for the WWF title nightly these days, is out of action with a torn triceps. Rude should be back opposing Warrior in about ten days.

Chad -

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